Wilkes County Schools

1931 - by Districts - fr. Bd. Educ.
Finley School - E. Finley
N. Wilkesboro School - E. Finley
C. B. Eller — Jo Ann Parsons

J. Jay Anderson

WILKES COUNTY SCHOOLS
1931

District #1

Wilkesboro (35)

- Anderson
- Arbor
- Boomer
- Brocktown
- Cherry Grove
- Cranberry
- Edgewood
- Ferguson
- Gilreath
- Goshen
- *High Rock
- Hunting Creek
- Lewis
- Little Rock
- Lovelace
- Lowe
- Miller
- Moravian Falls
- Mt. Crest
- Mt. Pisgah
- Mt. Sinai
- Oakwoods
- Osbornville
- Parker
- Piney Grove
- Price
- Pores Knob
- Robinson
- Russell Gap
- Somers
- Shady Grove
- Spurgeon
- Windy Gap
- *Hadley

District #2

Mt. Pleasant (12)

- Big Ivey
- Boiling Springs
- Congo
- Blue Ridge
- Hendrix
- New Hope
- Maple Springs
- Pattons Ridge
- Stoney Fork
- Stoney Hill
- Summit

District #3 (18)

Millers Creek

- Bellview
- Buck
- Concord
- Cross Roads
- Gordon
- Harmon
- Loggins
- Miller
- Mt. Valley
- Oak Grove
  (Mudhuncker)
- Piney Ridge
- Shepherd
- Sherman
  (Poplar Cove)
- Union (Cricket)
- White Oak
- Whittington
- Zion Hill

District #4

Sulphur Springs (10)

- Baptist Home
- Burke
- Fairplains
- Fairview
- Friendship
- Hay Meadow
- Mountain Valley
- Pine View
- Rock Springs

District #5

Mt. View (12)

- Basin Creek
- Cane Creek
- Dehart
- Double Creek
- Flint Hill
- Haymeadow
- Little Round Mt.
- New Life
- Piney Grove
- Springfield
- Walnut Grove

District #6

Traphill (8)

- Austin
- Joynes
- Mine Ridge
- Mt. Pisgah
- Oak Ridge
- Roaring Gap
- Stoney Ridge

District #7

Ronda (16)

- Barkers Grove
- Benham
- Bugaboo
- Clingman
- Cool Springs
- Cedar Hill
- Dennyville
- Little Elkin
- Maple Springs
- Pleasant Hill
- Pleasant Ridge
- Pleasant Home
- Plum Ridge
- Temple Hill
- Union

District #8

Roaring River (4)

- Brier Creek
- Dellaplane
- White Plains

Colored Schools (14)

- Beaver Creek
- Boomer
- Darby
- Elk
- Lewis Fork
- Lincoln Heights
- Parker
- *Parks Grove
- Rock Creek
- Ronda
- Thankful
- Traphill
- Quarry
- *Piney Grove

WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DRAWER 120 WILKESBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 28697

SCHOOLS IN WILKES

According to Dewey Minton--

Millers Creek High - outgrowth of group of students, including himself, who wanted a high school following their education at Bell's Knob (?)

From my own knowlege (JJA)--

Clingman elementary got the 8th grade because the kids in the 7th wanted to complete elementary education at Clingman rather than at Ronda. They came well in order to make another teacher necessary for the school and C.B. Eller agreed and did make possible the 8th grade at Clingman. The children refused to stay out the entire day during tobacco curing season and came half the day in order to be counted present

WILKES COUNTY SCHOOLS

Wilkes Academy, 1805

Mr. Harrison wishes to apologize to the Public for not having commenced his Grammar School on the 1st day of January, in Wilkes County, as he had advertised. He attended from South Carolina in readiness to commence the School according to Agreement, but the Weather had been so extremely bad that it had been nearly impossible to prepare a House for the purpose; but since that Time a very good House has been built, and the School is now going on very successfully. Boarding may be had plentifully in the Vicinity of the School at twenty-five Dollars per annum. Tuition is ten Dollars. He also wishes to assure those who may intrust him with the Care of their Sons'Education, of his whole Attention and Activity to serve them to the extent of their Expectations.

---Raleigh Register, February 11, 1805.

Philomathia, 1807.

Wilkes County

January 19, A.D. 1807

We inform the Public, that the Grammar School, Philomathia, has recently removed to the Courthouse, where it will continue a few months, in a large and suitable house for the business of such an Institution, until a house about half a mile out of town can be finished for the direct purpose of the School.

Students may obtain boarding in Town at the different prices of 45 and $40, and in the Vicinity at 36 and $40. Tuition, for the Latin and Greek Languages, English Grammar, Rhetoric, etc. is $13 paid half annually. This Seminary has existed for two years in this county with the very general applause of those Gentlemen who have been subscribers. It has had two Exhibitions which have met with almost universal approbation. The Teacher of this Academy is strictly attentive to the interests of his Pupils, studious to pro-their improvement both in literature and morality. The situation of this School is undoubtedly as healthy as any other on the continent, having every physical advantage that can accrue from air, water and eminence. From the healthiness of the place, the cheapness of board, and general satisfaction that the Teacher of this Academy has given both in his scholastic discipline and moral deportment, we recommend it to those Gentlemen who are desirous of putting out thier Sons to a Grammar School to put them here.

William Lenoir,
William Hulme,
Edmund Jones,
Chap. Gordon,
Jas. Wellborn,
Trustees.

---Raleigh Register, February 9, 1807.

Coon, North Carolina Schools and Academies, 1790-1840. p. 636.

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C78n

PHILOMATHIA.

The Public

Is respectfully informed that the Grammar School, Philomathia, will not commence the next Term, as usual on the first day of January, but will commence on the 8th of February next. * * *

Wilkesborough, Dec. 2d, 1807.
--Raleigh Register, December 24, 1807.

Administration of Peter McMillan.

WILKESBOROUGH ACADEMY.

The Trustees of the above Academy inform the Public, that they have engaged the Rev. Peter McMillan as their Principal, whose talents as a Linguist are exceeded by few Teachers in the State. * * *

M. Stokes,
John Brown,
John Bryant,
R. R. Gwinn,
Chap. Gordon,
Edm. Jones,
William Hulme,
Amb. Carlton,
Jas. Wellborn,
John Fletcher,
John Finlay,
Trustees.

Wilkesboro' Dec. 15, 1810.
--Raleigh Register, December 27, 1810.

Administration of A. W. Gay

WILKESBORO' ACADEMY.

THE Trustees of this Institution are happy to be able to inform the public, that they have engaged the Rev. A. W. Gay, as an instructor, who has already entered upon the discharge of his duties.

Instruction will be given in all the branches usually taught in Academies. Board, including washing, &c. can be procured in respectable families at from six to seven dollars a month. Tuition is proportionately low.

From the qualifications and experience of the Instructor, the cheapness of board, and the well known healthfulness of the situation, it is hoped that this Institution will receive a liberal share of public patronage.

By order of the Trustees.

S. F. Patterson, Sec'ry.

Wilkesboro', May 21, 1828.
--Yadkin & Catawba Journal, May 27, 1828.

Coon, North Carolina Schools and Academies, 1790-1840. p. 637.

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Boarders Wanted.

WILKESBOROUGH ACADEMY

Under the care of Rev. A. W. Gay, is now in operation. The subscriber wiol receive a few young men as boarders. He promises that he will pay strict attention to the improvement of the youth intrusted to his care. Wilkesborough is situated in the mountains, in one of the most delightful climates in the world:--those who wish to give their sons a healthy constitution, and have their minds improved, have now an opportunity of doing so.

May 17, 1828. Horace B. Satterwhite.
--Yadkin & Catawba Journal, May 27, 1828.

Rev. Mr. Anderson in Temporary Charge, 1829.

WILKESBORO' ACADEMY.

THE subscriber finding it necessary to be absent for a few months, has employed the Rev. Mr. Anderson, a graduate of one of the colleges of Pennsylvania, to take charge of the Academy, during his absence. Mr. Anderson is well qualified for performing the duties of an Instructor; and it is confidently hoped that the cheapness o of board and tuition, combined with the well known local advantages of the situation, will secure to this Institution a full share of public patronage.

Wilkesboro', Dec. 27, 1828. A. W. Gay, Principal
--Yadkin & Catawba Journal, January 6, 1829.

Announcements for 1829.

WILKESBOROUGH ACADEMY.

THE second session in this Academy will commence on Monday, the 29th of June instant, under the personal superintencence of thw subscriber. Instruction will be given in all the branches usually taught in Academies. The school may be expected to be permanent.

Wilkesboro', Wilkes county, N. C.
May 25, 1829. A. W. Gay
--Yadkin & Catawba Journal, June 9, 1829.

WILKESBORO' ACADEMY.

THE Winter Session of this Academy will commence on Monday, the 23d inst. The rates of tuition will be, for Latin and Greek, ten dollars; and for English Grammar, Geography, &c. seven dollars, per session of five months. Board can be had at from fifty to sixty dollars per annum.

Wilkesboro', N. C., Nov. 4, 1829. A. W. Gay, Principal.
--Yadkin & Catawba Journal, November 10, 1829.

Coon, North Carolina Schools and Academies, 1790-1840. p. 638.

370. 9756
C78n

HISTORY OF NORTH WILKESBORO SCHOOL

(Copied from "The Journal-Patriot,
Thursday, March 24, 1966)
(with additions made by Miss Elizabeth Finely on 7 September, 1967)

Although the minutes of the North Wilkesboro Board of Education prior to 1916 were destroyed by the big flood of that year, some information is known about that period in the North Wilkesboro Elementary School.

In compliance with a request, made in the form of a petition, signed by many citizens of North Wilkesboro in October, 1892, it was ordered by the Wilkes County Board of Education in January, 1893, that a new district be formed within the limits of North Wilkesboro, and that L. A. Harris, E. S. Blair, and B. Church be appointed as committeemen,. In July, 1893, the Town of North Wilkesboro Board appointed W. M. Absher, L. A. Jarvis, and A. M. Church to serve on the School Committee. Emma Horton (sister of Dr. W. P. Horton) was the teacher in the North Wilkesboro School District 1893-1894. Rent was paid that year (and until 1900) to the Winston Land and Improvement Company for its school building. This first frame building was located north of the old Opera House on D and Fifth Streets. W. R. Absher taught here 1894-1895 and R. E. L. Plummer in 1896-1897.

On March 9, 1900, the town purchased land on the north side of D and Third Streets with a frontage of 150 feet from the Winston Land and Improvement Company for $1,320. This sale included the school house situated on the lots conveyed; also, the furniture contained in the school building. This building was originally from one to three rooms in size. Later there was an addition to the back part. Sliding partititons between rooms made it possible to have an auditorium when such was needed.

The North Wilkesboro Elementary School was chartered by the legislature of North Carolina in 1905 under the name of North Wilkesboro Graded School. This special charter states that all territory embraced within the corporate limits of the town shall be a school district for the white and colored children. The charter carried the privilege of voting bonds for building school houses, and for otherwise providing funds for operating the schools within the district.

A high spot of the year 1913 was the construction of the ultra-modern solid brick school building on the corner of D and Third Streets. This structure had eleven large classrooms, one smaller classroom (for Seniors), an office, an auditorium with a seating capacity of nearly 500, a full basement, and an unusually long, wide hall where banquets and receptions were held. It was equipped with steam heat. Such a building has merited the regular maintenance it has received to the present time. (During the construction of this building the school occupied the exhibit hall at the Fairgrounds.)*

In the 1917 faculty there were twelve teachers, including the superintendent, (who taught part time). In that year, the board of education purchased 16 lots, east and northeast of the Graded School Building, at a price of $400.

In May, 1919, a resolution was adopted to the effect that a nine-month, instead of an eight-month, term be conducted by the trustees for 1919-1920. By April 1920, there were fifteen teachers plus the superintendent.

In the years just preceding 1924, the one building for primary, grammar grade, and high school became so over-crowded that some grades had to conduct double sessions. This resulted in the construction in 1924, of a new brick veneer building on E Street directly north of the D Street building, for grades six through eleven.

The year 1933 was a milestone in public education in North Carolina, because it was that year that the legislature dissolved all the special charter districts in the state, caused to be cancelled all special taxes in such districts, and undertook to equalize educational opportunity. In North Wilkesboro, supplementary taxes at the rate of twenty cents (20¢) were voted in order to finance the ninth month of instruction. The request of the North Wilkesboro School Board to the State School Commission that North Wilkesboro be set up as a separate City Administrative Unit was granted. This meant that the North Wilkesboro Unit would again be recognized as a separate and distinct unit from Wilkes County. At this period the county schools were operating only eight months.

After the consolidation of the North Wilkesboro High School and the Wilkesboro High School into Wilkes Central in 1952, grades one through eight of the North Wilkesboro School became known as the North Wilkesboro Elementary School. Conrad A. Shaw then became the first principal of the separate and distinctly elementary school. The principal taught full-time, with the superintendent's secretary assisting with office work. The instructional program was constantly improved as a result of organizing and making good use of materials and space.

Another progressive step was taken in 1964-65, when a brick addition was made to the plant. This contained a new gymnasium, (replacing the one of frame construction built under W.P.A. around 1935-1936), one new classroom, a band room, a teacher's lounge and restroom, and offices for the superintendent and the Board of Education.

At the present time, 1965, there are twenty-three classroom teachers, one half-time music consultant, one part-time band director, a full-time librarian, a full-time office secretary, and a full-time principal.

Some miscellaneous facts worthy of note are: The eleventh grade was added in 1912-1913. The twelfth grade was added in 1945-1946. Miss Marie Haigwood, a former Building Principal of the school, has advanced professionally to the extent that she is now a North Carolina Supervisor of Elementary Education. Dr. Lois Edinger, a former elementary teacher, is currently President of the 940,000-member National Education Association. This school has been rated A-1 by the state since 1923, excepting one or two years. (In the fall of 1967 the North Wilkesboro Woodlawn School for Negroes was consolidated with the North Wilkesboro Elementary.)*

The school, throughout the years, has been able, for the most part, to secure teachers who were above average in their qualifications, partly due to the supplemented salary they received. All of the administrators who have guided the progress of the school deserve to be commended, hence, we close with a list beginning in 1907:

W. G. Coltrane, 1907-1911; E. C. Willis, 1911-1915; Grady Gaston, 1915-1918; E. C. Willis, 1918-1919; Joe H. Hurst, 1919-1922; Horace Sisk, 1922-1931; W. D. Halfacre, 1931-1938; Paul S. Cragan, 1939-1947; J. Floyd Woodward, superintendent since 1947; Conrad A Shaw, principal since 1952. (Conrad Shaw, 1952-1966; C. C. Brooks, Jr., principal since 1966.)*

COMMITTEE
Elizabeth C. Finley, Chairman
Kate C. Finley
W. C. Grier

*additions 7 Sept. 1967 by
Miss Elizabeth Finley at her home

WCC

WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DRAWER 120 WILKESBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 28697

SCHOOLS IN WILKES

According to Dewey Minton--

Millers Creek High - outgrowth of group of students, including himself, who wanted a high school following their education at Bell's Knob (?)

From my own knowlege (JJA)--

Clingman elementary got the 8th grade because the kids in the 7th wanted to complete elementary education at Clingman rather than at Ronda. They came well in order to make another teacher necessary for the school and C.B. Eller agreed and did make possible the 8th grade at Clingman. The children refused to stay out the entire day during tobacco curing season and came half the day in order to be counted present

Chelcie B. Eller

Of the many North Carolina educators, both living and dead, I have chosen to honor one of the living, Mr. Chelcie B. Eller. Mr. Eller is the present Superintendent of Education in Wilkes County where he has won fame and honor for himself in the educational field.

December 14, early in twentieth century was a red letter day for Wilkes County. This was not recognized as a red letter day until years later when Mr. Eller began his work in education. Yes, on this day God did a great deed for the people of Wilkes County; he had created Mr. C. B. Eller.

He was born second of three children in the Ready Branch Community son of the late Dr. A. J. Eller and Mrs. Zora Church Eller. His father had a life time dream that his son would follow in his footsteps as a doctor. His father had devoted his life to the practice of medicine and served many years as a county health doctor working mostly with children. But his son had other dreams about his future which also included working with children. Mr. Eller was not only interested in the health of the children but in their education and in helping North Carolina out of its stage of backward illiteracy.

Like most little boys, Mr. Eller didn't like the idea of going to school the first year. His mother would send him to school in the morning; but as he walked by his grandfather's store, he stopped and spent the day talking. He was punished for playing hooky but little did it help. By the next year he had grown accustomed to the idea of going to school and meeting new friends. So through fate our prophet became a regular attendant in school.

Now, time and education march on. Mr. Eller received his elementary education in one-and two-teacher schools. Then he entered his high school training at Mountain View Institute and Mars High College and then on into higher education at North Carolina State College. Mr. Eller graduated from N. C. State, after many hard days and nights of work, with a degree in business administration which he has put to good use.

In college he was an eager and very easy-to-learn student. He studied hard, but he was not a "bookworm," for he always found time to participate in sports at N. C. State. He was an active member on both the football and baseball squad.

After graduation from college in 1925, Mr. Eller was then entering into a new world and a new way of life in which he could fulfill his life's dreams. He became a high school teacher and an athletic coach at Warsaw, North Carolina. During the summer he did not spend his time as most of the other teachers, but he worked in education at State College and the University of North Carolina.

In 1927 Mr. Eller went to Thomasville where he could do more work in education and where he was needed to extend their educational program. Here he served as high school teacher and coach. He organized and coached Thomasville's first football team. Mr. Eller was proud of these boys, but most of all he was proud of the idea that he had established his first organization.

In 1927 Mr. Eller moved to Warsaw to accept a position as athletic coach and high school principal, which was his first big step in education. One of Mr. Eller's jobs as principal was to get acquainted with his colleagues. In doing his job he met Miss Cora Holland, a native of Warsaw and an elementary school teacher. He knew when he met this young girl that he wanted her to become his wife.

Mr. Eller was a great man of vision and had the pioneer spirit to see his dreams to full fruition. The field of education and consolidation of schools was still unexplored, and Mr. Eller was pioneer to explore this vast field. In Duplin County he was one of the first to begin a consolidation program. Impressed with its advantages, he was determined to continue his work.

After Mr. Eller's marriage they lived five years in eastern North Carolina. Then in 1933 Wilkes County appointed Mr. Eller as county superintendent because of his previous works in education. One day while he was working in his garden, a telegram came telling him that the people of Wilkes County had elected him as the county superintendent.

The year 1933 was another red letter day for Wilkes County because Mr. Eller accepted the job, there were 99 schools in the county school system which had one or two teachers in each school. Mr. Eller started a consolidation school system to help Wilkes County to improve its educational system. Through his work, today there are five high schools in Wilkes County and twenty-three elementary schools. In 1954 the last of the one teacher schools closed. Now the Wilkes high school consolidation program is getting a good start. It has been said that Mr. Eller has had a part in more schools being consolidated than any other superintendent in the history of North Carolina's education.

Mr. Eller's name might never go down into the North Carolina history books for his work in Wilkes County's education, but his name will never go out of the hearts of the people in Wilkes or their generations to come for his work which will always remain even after he is gone.

Now let us turn from his work in education to some of his many jobs in his personal life. He is an active member of the First Baptist Church in

North Wilkesboro. He participates in all of his church activities. During the erection of the new educational building, he served as the chairman of the program. He served several years as chairman of the Board of Deacons. In addition to all of his other church posts, he is superintendent of one of the adult departments in Sunday school.

In civic life Mr. Eller is a member of several of the outstanding clubs in North Wilkesboro. He is a leading member of the Kiwanis Club. He is also a member of the Mount Pleasant Masonic Lodge, the Knights of Pythias, and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. He is a trustee of the Junior Order Children's Home at Lexington, North Carolina. Most of the clubs of which Mr. Eller is a member pertain to education in some way.

Mr. Eller has been honored in many ways in the educational circles. In 1954 Wilkes County teachers honored him in a very special way; they gave him a life membership in the N. C. E. A. Mr. Eller has served on many distinguished committees which are too numerous to mention. Some of the most important committees on which he serves are the following: State Advisory Athletic Committee, Teacher Education Committee, Committee to study principal allotment and employment, and a Driver Education Committee. In all of these committees, Mr. Eller has found success. Mr. Eller has also been honored with the office of president of the State College Alumni Association and he is a leading member of the State Superintendent Advisory Committee.

One of Mr. Eller's favorite pastimes is travel. He believes that travel is one of the most educational means of broading one's knowledge. Even when Mr. Eller travels, he always ends up studying about education or schools.

Mrs. Eller said, "Even a vacation or a trip usually turns into a study of schools or education."

We have looked into the past and present stages of Mr. Eller's life, now let us examine the reasons why he was interested in education.

When Mr. Eller was a boy, he had to get up early in the morning to do his chores in order to get to school on time. After breakfast he would begin to walk to school. They lived many miles from school, and he had to walk every day. As he walked, he often thought how wonderful it would be if the children had some means of transportation.

The school which he attended was a one room log cabin. All of the grades assembed in this one room and were taught by one teacher. The people thought it was a privilege to have a teacher because no one was interested in the field of education. The students were taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, which was often called the three R's in school.

Mr. Eller often read about the big schools in other states with different rooms for each grade, and he wondered why North Carolina didn't have this kind of schools.

These log cabin schools were heated with a big wood heater which was placed in the center of the room. The teacher appointed the boys to see that a fire was kept in the heater in the winter. After school these boys also had to chop the wood to burn the next day.

The desks in the school were rough tables and chairs. The children's books were purchased by the parents and were used by each child in the family.

All of these things were the reasons why Mr. Eller wanted to improve North Carolina's educational system so the generations to come would not be educated in these same environments and conditions.

As a student in Wilkes County, I can see and realize what Mr. Eller's work in education means to the present students under his educational system and to the people. One would have to study into the history of Wilkes County and compare the past history with the present to really see what a great work Mr. Eller has done. I have studied the history of

North Carolina and the life of Mr. Eller, and I truly recognize him as a great man in education. To show our appreciation to Mr. Eller for giving us the opportunity to have our present school system, I have written this paper in honor of him for the West Wilkes High School's Future Teachers of America Club.

Jo Ann Parsons

LIST OF SCHOOLS IN WILKES COUNTY

1931 (120)

District # 1

✓ Wilkesboro

✓ ~~Arbor~~ ~~Little Rock~~
✓ ~~Boomer~~ ~~Russell Gap~~
✓ ~~Cherry~~ Grove
✓ Cranberry
✓ ~~Edgew~~ood ~~Brooktown~~
✓ ~~Fer~~guson ~~Robinson~~
✓ ~~Gilre~~ath ~~Lowe~~
✓ ~~Goshen~~ ~~Price~~
✓ ~~High~~ Rock
~~Hun~~ting Creek
✓ ~~Lewis~~ ~~Holley~~
✓ ~~Lovelace~~
✓ ~~Mill~~er
✓ ~~Morav~~ian Falls
✓ Mt. Crest
✓ ~~Mt. Pi~~sgah
35 ✓ ~~Mt.~~ Sinai
✓ ~~Oak~~woods
✓ ~~Osborn~~ville
✓ ~~Park~~er
✓ ~~Piney~~ Grove
✓ Somers
✓ Shady Grove
✓ Spurgeon
✓ Windy Gap
~~Pores Knob~~
~~[illegible]~~

✓ District # 2

✓ Mt. Pleasant

~~Hendrix~~ ~~Boiling Springs~~
✓ ~~Big Ivey~~
✓ Summit
✓ ~~Pattons Ridge~~
✓ ~~Maple Springs~~
11 ✓ ~~Blue Ridge~~
✓ ~~Congo~~
✓ ~~Stoney Hill~~
✓ ~~New Hope~~
✓ ~~Stoney Fork~~

District # 3

✓ Millers Creek

✓ ~~Mt. Valley~~ ~~Gordon~~
✓ ~~Buck~~ ~~[illegible]~~
✓ ~~Union (Cricket~~)
14 ✓ ~~Cross Roads~~
✓ ~~White Oak~~ ~~Zion Hill~~
✓ W~~hittingto~~n
✓ ~~Shepherd~~ ~~Poplar Cove~~
✓ ~~Oak~~ Grove ~~([illegible])~~
✓ ~~Concord~~
✓ ~~Sherman~~ (Poplar Cove)
← called

~~Loggins~~
~~Harmen~~
✓ ~~Piney Ridge~~ ④
✓ ~~Miller~~

District # 4

✓ Sulphur Springs

✓ ~~Fairview~~ ~~Hay Meadow~~
✓ ~~Burke~~ ~~Mountain Valley~~
✓ ~~Baptist~~ Home ~~Flint Hill~~
✓ Pine ~~View~~
✓ ~~Rock S~~prings
✓ ~~Fairplains~~ ⑩
✓ ~~Friendship~~

District # 5

✓ Mt. View

✓ ~~Flint Hill~~
✓ ~~Dehart~~
✓ ~~Double Creek~~ ~~Springfield~~
✓ ~~New Life~~ Piney ~~Grove~~
✓ ~~Cane Creek~~ ~~Basin Creek~~
✓ ~~Haymeadow~~ ~~Walnut~~ Grove
~~Little~~ Round Mt. ⑫

District # 6

✓ Traphill

~~Mt. Pisgah~~
✓ ~~Austin~~
✓ ~~Mine Ridge~~
✓ ~~Roaring Gap~~ ⑧
✓ ~~Stoney Ridge~~
✓ ~~Joynes~~
✓ ~~Oak Ridge~~

District # 7 ⑰

✓ Ronda
✓ ~~Barker~~ ~~Barker's Grove~~ ~~Maple Springs~~
✓ ~~Little Elkin~~ ~~Cedar Hill~~
✓ ~~Pleasant Hill~~
✓ ~~Bonham~~ O~~sborn~~ville
✓ ~~Cool Springs~~ Mt. ~~Pisgah~~
✓ ~~Pleasant Ridge~~
✓ ~~Temple Hill~~
✓ ~~Dennyville~~
✓ ~~Clingman~~
✓ ~~Plum Ridge~~
✓ ~~Union~~
Pleasant Home
~~Bugaboo~~

District # 8

✓ ~~Roaring River~~

~~Brier Creek~~
~~Mt. View~~ ④
~~Dellaplane~~
White Plains

COLORED SCHOOLS

~~Lincoln Heights~~ ✓
~~Beaver Creek~~ ✓ ~~[illegible]~~
~~Thankful~~
~~Elk~~ ✓
~~Darby~~ ✓
~~Parks Grove~~ ⑬
~~Lewis Fork~~
~~Rock Creek~~
Traphill ✓
~~Ronda~~ ✓
Piney Grove ✓
Quarry ✓
~~[illegible]~~ ✓

35
11
14
14
20
21
13

128

Lett

0

THE HISTORY OF ROARING RIVER SCHOOL

Susan
&
Jane

By
Steve Mastin

For:
U.S. History
East Wilkes High School
March 9, 1964

A

dropped to B+ because it was late

THE HISTORY OF ROARING RIVER SCHOOL

In April, 1908, a decision of the committee in District #1 Edwards Township in locating the school house site in said district was heard and it was ordered by the Board that the district be divided with the following boundaries. Beginning at Greenwoods northwest corner on Roaring River, first running north thence various courses with his line to the road leading to White Plains, thence with the public road eastwardly to Popular Springs colored church. The following committee were appointed: E.E. Tharpe, W.S. Alexander, E.R. Felts. The board entered into a contract with District #1 Edwards for the erection of a new building.

Roaring River School was orginated in August, 1908. The building consisted of two rooms, two front doors, and two cloak rooms. The first two teachers were Mr. W.T. Comer and Miss Minnie Myers. Mr. Comer was the principle and taught the upper three grades and Miss Myers taught the four primary grades. Both of these teachers stayed one year. The teachers salary then was $25.00 and $32.00 per month. The average attendence in 1908 was 52 pupils.

As was customary in those days, lunches were brought in buckets or baskets and water was carried from a spring in a bucket with only one dipper to drink from. The rooms were heated with wood stoves, the boys carried wood and girls helped the teacher clean the rooms. Some students walked three or four miles each day to school. The school term lasted four months at this time with the term usually beginning in August with two weeks out in September so students could help with the fall harvest. Good attendence was important for if the average daily attendence fell below 1/5 of the original census the school would be closed.

In 1909, the District School Board members were Mr. S.J. Greenwood, Mr. R.L. Church, Mr. J.R. Boldin, Mr. T.J. McNeil, and Mr. H.E. Parks. Mr. T.J. McNeil was appointed rural librarian. They got a new faculty consisting of two teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Uriah A. Miller, from Straw, North Carolina, which is now North Wilkesboro, route #3. He and his wife taught four year until 1913 and gave some high school courses to a few students who had finished their elementary work. The average attendence for those four years was 67 pupils.

In 1913 Mr. C.C. Faw and Miss Edna McLain who were later married taught along with Miss Annie Hubbard until the end of the term in 1914.

Then in the term of 1914-15 the teachers were J.W. Elms, and C.C. Sorrels.

In the next term of 1915-16 the teachers were Mr. Millard Bumgarner, and Miss Mattie Sale. Most of the teachers lived or boarded in Roaring River but Mr. Bumgarner lived in North Wilkesboro and each day he rode a local train called the "Shoo-fly" to for the year was, the high school 32, and the elementary was 82.

In 1929 the present building now standing was erected consisted of 7 classrooms-office, small library, auditorium and two rest rooms. The estimated value of the building was $9,708.00. The teachers for this year were Mr. H.D. Hinshaw, principle, W.D. Martin, Pauline Church, Zelle Harris, Lois Parks, Mrs. Dora C. Elliot, Beatrice Parsons, and Coy Durham.

On July 15, 1930, Oak Grove School was divided between Roaring River and Mountain View Schools. Other schools consolidated with Roaring River were Barkers Grove, Durham, Brier Creek, Plum Ridge, Jarvis, Dellaplane, and Sloans Creek. After all these schools consolidated the enrollment of the elementary was 344 and the high school was 58. During this period the schools changed from six months to eight months. With Clarence M. Cook as principle.

In 1932-33 the eleventh grade was added thus enabling students to complete their high school education at Roaring River. The first graduating class consisted of 10 seniors. No complete record was kept of the teachers until 1940-41 but some were as follows: Jason Sigmon, Pauline Church, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Tucker, Denver Holcomb, Mary Louise Pearson, Grace Bauguess, Mary Louise Fergerson, B.J. Whitener, Blanche Silver, Eva Kirkman, Anne McNeil, Erie Gilliam, Mrs. Hugh Cranor, Ruth Linney, Belva Kilby, Zelle Harris, Georgia McCall, Mrs. J.P. Pardue, Alva Simmons, and Ether Hoots.

In 1933-35 Mr. C.M. Cook was principle and during this period 15 seniors graduated from Roaring River.

In 1935-37 Mr. William H. Davis was principle.

In 1938 a lunch room was started in the small library room adjoining the office. Mrs. Eula Lytton was appointed supervisor with Mrs. Sallie Perkins and Mrs. Claude Poplin assistances. Food was prepared in this room and served through a window to the students who took their plates to their class rooms and ate. Realizing the great need for a larger and more adequate lunchroom the school and community began to work and 1939 the building was erected. The county gave lumber from two small school buildings that had been torn down. But since a larger and better building was desired patrons donated lumber for the frame. Money was borrowed from the bank to finance the rest of the material. The students working under the N.Y.A. were allowed to work on the building during their spare time and were paid $4.00 per month. Over a period of years some of the teachers and ladies of the community gave suppers for civic organizations and paid for the building equipment. In later years other equipment was added and paid for by the school. Seth Walsh was foreman and Mrs. Maude Miller was the N.Y.A. supervisier. At this time the lunch room was not operated on a cash basis. Students were allowed to bring food in exchange for meal tickets. To acquire land for the building 3 1/2 acres of land (the site of the old school building) was traded to Mrs. L.J. Salmons for 6 acres. This allowed space for a large garden. All schools in the county that had a lunch-room helped raise the garden. When the vegetables were harvested they were canned at the lunch-room and divided among the schools. Our share was 1400 jars of food. Later Home Ec. girls helped with the canning and made drapes. Mrs. Sallie Perkins was appointed supervisor in 1939 and remained in that position until 1963. The present workers are Mrs. Alma Wood, supervisor, Mrs. Lena Parks, Mrs. Glen Hunter, and Mrs. Durham. Mrs. J.P. Pardue and Miss Zelle Harris gave their services for bookkeeping and food buying for many years.

In 1939-40 Mr. C.P. Farmer was principle. School competive sports consisted of basketball and softball. The parents provided transportation to and from the games. Basketball was played on outdoor courts and most games were played during school hours.

In 1940-41 the teachers were Mr. C.P. Farmer, principle, Chloe Michael, O.J. Evans, R.S. Rogers, Turner Crater, Ruth Shatley, Zelle Harris, Nilta Sebastian, Anne McNeil, Della Bumgarner, Erie Gilliam, Mrs. J.P. Pardue, Helen Hendren, Lena T. Billings, and Myrtle Norris. The librarian was Dorothry Webster, Custodian was Frank Johnson, and matron was Mrs. Neil Tomas. That year there were 21 seniors graduated.

In 1941-42 the teachers were Mr. C.P. Farmer, principle, Richard Rogerson, James Merritt, Chloe Michael, Mrs. Beatrice P. Eller, Irene Phillips, Mrs. Rebecca D. Parks, Turner Crater, Zelle Harris, Nilta Sebastian, Mrs. J.P. Pardue, Mrs. Lena T. Billings and Mrs. Myrtle N. Church. That year they were 10 seniors that graduated.

The old wood school building burned on January 4, 1942. And the classes that were being held in that building had to be crowded into the brick building and lunch-room until other arrangements could be made. Superintendent Eller secured plans for a five room frame building that would house the students for the present time. Since this country was at war and building materials were so badly needed in the war effort and whereas the War Production board was trying to limit construction to a minimum of essential needs. The board felt that they should build a frame building that would house the students now, and after the war when a permanment school building could be built, they could turn the frame building into a vocational building.

In 1942-43 the teachers were Mr. G.A. Johnson, principle, Mrs. Chloe M. Parks, Mrs. J.S. Zimmerman, Mrs. G.A. Johnson, Mattie Brooks, Jewel Graham, Mrs. Rebecca D. Parks, Inez Triplette, Virginia Baker, and Myrtle N. Church, public music director. In 1943 the Legislature of North Carolina passed a new law that stated that the schools be required to lengthen their term from eight months to nine months. This year the school was privilege to have a Home Ec. Department, though they were handicaped by having only two sewing machines, and one stove.

In 1945-46 schools were in the process of changing from eleven to twelve year course of study. Therefore there was not a graduating class that year. The first class completing the twelve year course of study graduated in the spring of 1947. The enrollment was 450 elementary and 65 high school for a tatal of 515.

Early in 1947 the students, parents, and teachers of Roaring River started planning to build a gymnasium. Pie suppers, shows and various other entertainments were held to secure funds to promote this plan.

In the fall of 1947 the school purchased a building from Camp Butner. When the work on the gymnasium began, everyone contributed time and money.

In 1947-48 the teachers were Mr. G.A. Johnson, principle, Mrs. Joe Pearson, Jr., Mary Wiles, Robert Teague, E.I. Ellege, Zelle Harris, Ruth C. Cheek, R.L. Whitley, Pauline Sexton, Inez Linney, Mrs. J.P. Pardue, Mrs. Pansy Wiles, Mrs. Lena Billings, and Virginia Baker. And there were seven seniors that graduated.

In 1948-49 Mr. Roger Gwaltney and Mr. Robert Teague were principles. In the years of 1943-44 and the year of 1948-49 the teachers were Bill Gabriel, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Hix, Mr. and

Mrs. Eli Smith, Gwyn Vannoy, Belva Vannoy, Mrs. J.S. Zimmerman, Grace Cockerham, Mrs. Jess Michael, Mrs. Earl Church, Mrs. Rex Lovette, Fred Gilreath, Elvira Wood, Marie Wood, Joy Walters, and Margie Pendry.

In 1950, a two room addition was made to the brick building which made nine rooms not counting the office and auditorium.

In the term of 1951-52 the teachers were Mr. M.A. Cowles, principle, Fern Caudill, Mrs. Joe Pearson Jr., Pat M. Hunt, J.R. Calloway, R.L. Whitley, Ben Johnson, Florence Mathis, C.G. Glass, Inez T. Linney, Mrs. J.P. Pardue, Mrs. Mack Cowles, Lena T. Billings, and Virginia B. Warren. There were 15 seniors that graduated that term.

In 1952-53 the teachers were Mr. O.M. Proffit, principle, A.L. Atchley, Lena T. Billings, J.R. Calloway, E.T. Carpenter, Fern Caudill, Zelle Harris, Helen Hendren, Ether Hoots, Ben Johnson, Florence Mathis, Mrs. J.P. Pardue, Mrs. Harold Parks, Mrs. Joe Pearson Jr., Mrs. Jim Spicer, Virginia B. Warren, R.L. Whitley, Eva B. Glass, and Inez T. Linney. There were 10 seniors that graduated that year.

In 1953-54 the teachers were Mr. O.M. Proffit, principle, L.L. Atchley, Lena T. Billings, J.R. Calloway, Carl Cockerham, Zelle Harris, Ether Hoots, Ben Johnson, Inez T. Linney, Mrs. J.P. Pardue, Mrs. Joe Pearson Jr., Nilta Sebastian, Mrs. Jim Spicer, R.L. Whitley, Mae Woodruff, and Mrs. O.M. Proffit, was the music director.

In 1954, Roaring River and Ronda High Schools consolidated to form East Wilkes High School. Our new principle for the elementary school was Mr. T.C. Orsborne who still holds this position. Mrs. R.P. Jackson was employed as secretary in 1955. A four room primary building was added in 1962 with the estimated value of $60,000 and a cafeteria was erected in 1963 at the cost of $65,000. Both are electrically heated and equipted with the most modern conveinces. Since 1954, approximately $15,000 of schools and library books, office equipment, furniture, maps, globes, science equipment etc. have been added from school funds. In the last two years the grounds have been landscaped, walks made in front and back and a driveway paved for the buses from funds provided by the county approximately $6,000. Five years ago a special education class was begun.

The present local school board are Mr. R.V. Garris Jr., chairman, Carl Howard, and C.C. Alexander.

The present faculty is: Mr. T.C. Orsborne, principle, Mr. Jim Welborn, Mrs. Pauline Greenwood, Mrs. Dorothy Inscore, Miss Nilta Sebastian, Mrs. James Alexander, Mr. Dickie Welborn, Mrs. Berline Gantt, Mrs. Eva Glass, Mrs. Naomi Parks, Mrs. Myrtle Hunt, Mrs. Betsy Welborn, and Mrs. T.C. Orsborne. Others who have served during this period are; Ether Hoots, Mrs. J.P. Pardue, R.L. Whitley, Rev. Carl Cockerham, Dana Sales, Florence Mathis, Robert

Calloway, Mrs. Ethel Reid, Clyde Miller, Viola Johnson, Bob Edwards, Charlie Burchette, Francis Roselle, Zelle Harris, Mae Woodruff, Ben Johnson, and Joe Blackburn. Mrs. O.M. Proffit served as music director until this year. Clyde Burchette and Robert Cole served as custodians for one year each and Eugene Cole has held the position since.

The school has been instrumental in the organization of the following civic organizations; Roaring River Vol. Fire Dept., Wildlife Club, Boy Scouts of America, and the Parents Teachers Association.

The school owns approximatley 11 acres of land and has an estimated value of $225,000. The enrollment of the school is 375.

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